

hope my colleagues will also wonder why they do not have drug testing at the White House. If we are going to get into this, Mr. Speaker, this is a double-edged sword and I hope the House does not fall for this.

#### HOLDING THE LINE ON INTEREST RATES

(Mr. NADLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, it is not often that I have occasion to rise and commend the Federal Reserve Board, but the decision yesterday to hold the line on interest rates certainly merits commendation.

We all know the Federal Reserve Board is allergic to good economic news. If too many Americans find jobs, the Fed ominously warns of runaway inflation when there is no evidence of inflation, and cranks up interest rates to slow the economy down. The Fed has seemed determined to maintain an unemployment rate, to guarantee an unemployment rate of at least 5.6 percent or more. To keep this in perspective, every percentage point of unemployment represents 1.3 million Americans.

That should be a cause for concern to anyone in this Chamber who has been conscientiously cutting the deficit or scrapping the Nation's social safety net in the belief that their efforts will lower interest rates and put people to work.

So my congratulations to the Federal Reserve for enduring the economic good news with restraint. Hopefully this is a sign that in the future we may be able to begin to count on the Fed to help, not hinder, the effort to improve the lives of all Americans.

And as a consequence of this, Mr. Speaker, I again ask and I join my colleagues in asking that the Ethics Committee stop covering up and release the Gingrich report.

#### MAJORITY OF CONTRACT WITH AMERICA NOW LAW

(Mrs. SEASTRAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, our friends on the other side would like the American people to believe that this 104th Congress has been a failure and that Republicans are running from the Contract With America. Well, they are wrong, and here is why.

In this Congress, the Republican majority has given the American people tax cuts for small businesses, an adoption tax credit, the Congressional Accountability Act, the line-item veto, unfunded mandate reform, the Personal Responsibility Act, health insurance reform, lobbying reform, the gift ban, welfare-to-work tax credits, food safety reform, et cetera, et cetera, et

cetera, and they are now all law. In fact, fully 65 percent of the Contract With America has been signed into law, but some of the most popular measures, like tax cuts for working families, have been vetoed by Bill Clinton.

Mr. Speaker, the Republicans are delivering on our promise to change the spending culture here in Washington DC. In fact, just yesterday when reporters pressed a Member of the Democrat leadership to name another Congress as productive, he could not name one, and he said "I know there have been several. I will get back to you."

#### CAN THE PEOPLE TRUST THIS CONGRESS?

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, in these final days of the 104th Congress, the American people need to remember what this Congress has been all about.

Time and again Members of Congress who have tried to speak out on issues of concern to the American people in fact have been silenced. We have seen it today when Members of Congress attempted to discuss the very serious charges of Federal tax fraud documented in an independent counsel's report which the Ethics Committee refuses to release to the public.

A year ago, Republican zeal—

#### POINT OF ORDER

Mr. CHRYSLER. Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his point of order.

Mr. CHRYSLER. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is violating House rules by referring to matters before the Ethics Committee which are specifically forbidden by House rules.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will sustain the point of order, and asks the gentleman to proceed in order.

Ms. DELAURO. A year ago, Republican zeal to silence debate in the people's House resulted in the arrest of senior citizens who came to speak out against Republican plans to cut \$270 billion from Medicare to pay for a \$245 billion tax cut for the privileged few. And with the Medicare bill still on the chopping block because the Dole plan would require even deeper cuts in Medicare than the \$270 billion in Medicare cuts proposed last year, the American people should ask themselves if they can trust this Republican Congress when it is so afraid of the truth, whether it be on Medicare or whether it be releasing the ethics report from the committee.

#### A GLIMPSE OF THE FUTURE

(Mr. HERGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, last week President Clinton's Interior Secretary, Bruce Babbitt, endorsed a plan to tax anything having to do with the great outdoors. The plan he endorsed called for a 5-percent tax on everything from binoculars to canteens to sleeping bags to birdseed.

Birdseed, Mr. Speaker? What is next? The air we breathe? It is true that Bill Clinton, the great conservative Republican that he is, has backed away from the plan, but is this just a glimpse of the future if Bill Clinton were to stay in power? Higher taxes, bigger government and more regulation. Mr. Speaker, they say it is hard for a leopard to change its spots. It is also hard for liberals to change their tax-and-spend tendencies, as Interior Secretary Babbitt has so eloquently proved.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that if the Clinton administration wins reelection, tax and spend will be back again. Welcome to the future, Mr. and Mrs. America.

#### CALL FOR RELEASE OF ETHICS COMMITTEE REPORT

(Mr. MORAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, normally what goes around comes around. Normally people who abuse their positions of power to destroy political rivals in underhanded and dishonest ways ultimately become the victims of their own corruption. The snake that they unleash from their souls invariably comes around to bite them as well. But that natural law of justice has been thwarted in this body. It has been thwarted because Speaker GINGRICH has suppressed the release of an Ethics Committee report that details activities that makes Speaker Wright's improprieties pale in comparison.

Mr. Speaker, we have a number of quotes from Speaker GINGRICH that identify the reasons why Speaker Wright was charged. They are far more applicable to the charges that have been leveled against Speaker GINGRICH. If you take Speaker GINGRICH at his words, we would release this Ethics Committee report today.

#### TROUBLING STATISTICS RELEASED ON TEEN DRUG USE

(Mr. RADANOVICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I am greatly troubled by the statistics recently released on teenage drug use. How can we feel good about ourselves as a society when teen drug use has increased 78 percent since 1992? By the time teenagers reach 17, 58 percent know someone personally who uses acid, cocaine or heroin, and 43 percent have a friend with a serious drug problem.